This is in accord with all established diplomatic norms and international practise. Accordingly, when President Clinton personally called PM to inform him of US reasons for going to Pakistan this was reiterated. PM did, however, let it be known that whatever US reasons, the military regime in Pakistan would portary the action as a signal of US support and endorsement. That is why, thereafter, the US publicly stated, on a number of occasions, that the visit in no way legitimises or endorses the military take over in Pakistan.

Report on Giga-Deal in Trouble

*470 SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to report captioned "Giga-Deal in Trouble" published in India Today dated the 27th March, 2000;

(b) if so, whether Government had taken-up with the Indian Embassy for finding out the antecedents of IUNet;

(c) if so, the finding of Government and the details thereof;

(d) whether the questions raised in report regarding absolute lack of transparency and departure from Standard procedure are in conformity with the findings;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) Ministry of Information Technology had requested for a business information report and background of M/s IUNet Inc. from the Indian embassy at Washington. In response the Indian Embassy forwarded a business information report dated 27.1.2000 on IUNet Inc. from M/s. Dun & Bradstreet, USA with the following information:—

Business Summary:

IUNET INC. 500
FORBES AVE
PITTSBURGH PA 15213
TEL: 412 268-2000

BUSINESS SERVICES STARTED 1999
EMPLOYS 2
HISTORY INCOMPLETE

No rating was assigned becasue M/s. Dun & Bradstreet did not have sufficient historical information about this company.

Directors:
DR. PAUL CHRISTANIO, CEO
JEFFERY W BOLTON, SEC-TREAS
(antecedents of both are undertermined)

DATE INCORPORATED: 8.1.1999
STATE OF INCORPORATION: PENNSYLVANIA

The Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications which is the Administrative Ministry dealing with this matter have been given the above details.

India's claim for Permanent Membership of Security Council

*471. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approached the U.S authorities for its support to India's claim for permanent membership in an expanded U.N. Security Council?

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the response received from the U.S. authorities?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) India's candidature for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council has been made known to the US authorities at various levels and occasions.

The US Government has not yet taken a formal position on India's candidature.

Decline in Rate of Growth in Agricultural Sector

*472. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: